

A few months ago the United States Forest Service requested a number of organisations to appoint official representatives who would compose a Committee to investigate the Kaibab region and to study the conditions by actual observations and make to the Forest Service such recommendations as it saw fit. The Committee traversed all sections of the Kaibab area traveling approximately 650 miles in actual field of examination. It observed every forest type of the area during the period June 8th to 15th, 1931.

In its report to the Forest Service the Committee stated in part:—

"It is the conclusion of the Committee, after carefully reviewing the general condition of the Kaibab range, and also observing the degree of recovery within the fenced experimental plots, that the Kaibab area is not now producing more than 10 per cent. of the available and nutritious forage that this range once produced.

"No doubt the entire accessible Kaibab area has suffered at least two periods of severe range depletion; first, by domestic grazing animals, and then by deer. In the words of a financier, the capital investment, which in this case is the forage, has been used up almost completely.

"The forage of the entire Kaibab area is yet in a deplorable condition, and with the exception of the east-side winter range, it is doubtful whether there has been any considerable range recovery due to the reduction of the deer-herd. It is believed, however, by those who have studied Kaibab conditions over several years, that in places there is slight suspension of range deterioration because of the reduction of the deer and domestic stock.

There exists a most urgent need for reducing the present number of deer in the Kaibab area to a point much below the present limited carrying capacity of the range and maintaining the deer-herd at such a level until such time as the various species of shrubs and young trees upon which the deer depend for browse are re-established. Thereafter, by careful game management, the deer may be permitted to increase to such numbers as the natural food-supply may sustain. During this necessary period of re-establishment, we recommend that all forms of natural wild animal life, other than deer, in the Kaibab area be left undisturbed, except for necessary scientific purposes, or where serious damage to private property is being done, and that suspension of Federal and State predatory animal killing be continued; also, the area should be closed to private trapping and hunting of flesh-eating animals until adequate annual reductions of deer are made."